

Fig. 50-9. All trees can be divided into two groups: coniferous and deciduous.

Types of Trees

There are many species (kinds) of trees. They can be divided into two basic groups. These groups are **deciduous** trees and **coniferous** trees. See Fig. 50-9. Deciduous trees are broad-leaf trees. Most deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter. Coniferous trees, also called evergreen trees, have needle-shaped leaves. Most of these trees keep their leaves all year.

Wood is labeled according to the type of tree from which it is cut. Wood from coniferous

trees is called **softwood**. Wood from deciduous trees is called **hardwood**. These terms do not always indicate a wood's hardness or softness. Many softwoods are harder than some hardwoods. Balsa wood, for example, is a hardwood, but is much softer than pine (softwood).

Hardwoods and softwoods have different grain structures. All softwoods are closed grain. **Closed grain** woods have small, hard-to-see pores. Their surfaces are smooth and nonporous. Examples are pine and spruce.

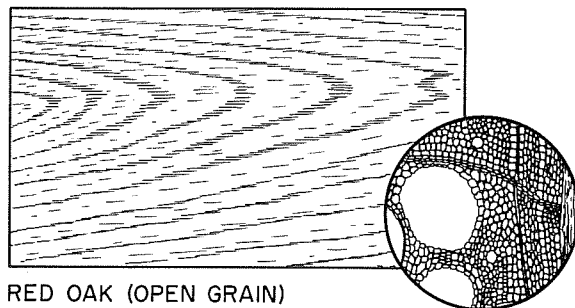
Most hardwoods are open grain. **Open grain** woods have large, noticeable pores. Their surfaces are generally rough and porous. Examples include oak, hickory, and mahogany. Some hardwoods do have small enough pores to be considered closed grain. Maple, willow, and cherry are some examples.

Tree Identification

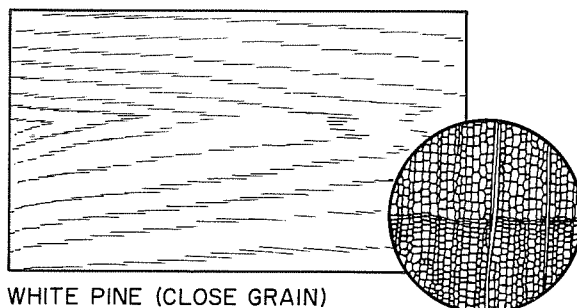
You can identify different kinds of trees by studying and comparing their parts. The flower parts of trees are quite different. So are the leaves and buds. Branch patterns and wood textures differ from tree to tree. Look at the leaf and fruit differences between the trees in Fig. 50-11. These differences will help identify some living trees.

Trees are also identified by the colors and grain patterns of their wood. The "Wood Species" part of section VIII identifies many types of woods. Full-color photos are provided for easy identification. Possible applications for these woods are also provided.

Fig. 50-10. The different pore sizes of open and closed grain woods can be seen in these magnified views.



RED OAK (OPEN GRAIN)



WHITE PINE (CLOSE GRAIN)